



**Board of Livestock Meeting Minutes
September 22 and 23, 2008
Room 152, Capitol Building
Helena MT 59601**

Monday, September 22, 2008

DRAFT

Board of Livestock Members Present:

Stan Boone, representing cattle producers
Jan French, Vice Chair, representing pork producers
George Hammond, representing cattle producers
Bill Hedstrom, Chairman, representing dairy and egg producers
Linda Nielsen, representing cattle producers
Meg Smith, representing cattle producers
Becky Weed, representing sheep producers

Staff:

Marty Clark, assistant administrator, Brands Enforcement Division
George Harris, administrator, Centralized Services Division
Christian Mackay, executive officer
Steve Merritt, public information officer
Carol Olmstead, bureau chief, Meat Inspection
Dr. Jeanne Rankin, assistant state veterinarian, Animal Health Division
Sherry Rust, administrative assistant, recorder
Dan Turcotte, chief, Milk and Egg Bureau
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Guests:

Druska Kinkie
R Kinkie
R Nemetz
Rep Boggis
Barry Rice, Rice Ranches
Diane Rice, District 71
Cindy Donohue
Jess Donohue
Steve & Carol Wiley, Montana Stockgrowers Association
Doug Robinette, Beartooth Stock Association
Anna Robinette, producer
Paul Ringling, Montana Cattlemens Association
Sharon McDonald, Montana Cattlemens Association
George and Jeanette Rankin
Bill Myers, Beartooth
Jack Myers, Beartooth
Bill Garrison
John Steuber, USDA Wildlife Services
Jim Hagenbarth
Kraig Glazier, USDA Wildlife Services
James Stuart, Sun Ranch

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Mary Heller, Congressman Denny Rehberg
Ariel Overstreet, Montana Stockgrowers Association
George Ochowski
Tom Blass
Charlene Rich, Montana Beef Council
Nicole Griffin, Montana Farm Bureau Federation
Larry Stein, Steins Market
Pat Roylance
John Scully
Gary Clark
John Crumley
Jeff Flein
Kevin Baltz
Rollin Rice
Chad Jones
Kim Baker, Montana Cattlemens Association
Steve Roth, Montana Stockgrowers Association

CALL TO ORDER AND BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairman Bill Hedstrom called the meeting to order at 1: p.m.

Becky Weed –

- fall is starting and the country is showing it
- attended the Miles City Ram Sale
- no blue tongue this year
- dry until 2 days ago then slight moisture

George Hammond –

- had a spotty summer
- some fall moisture
- hail hit some hard, nearly wiped out
- market –steer calves are selling, heifers are not
- surprised prices have held as good as they have

Jan French–

- moisture has been okay
- harvesting still going on, hay prices are high
- pig prices are way down, from 65 cents to 47 cents
- Proud of the board's accomplishments
 - people board hired 4 different division heads - all doing an awesome job
 - Christian Mackay, Dr Zaluski, new Public Relations person
 - Brucellosis - expanding working with other states, new trich program
 - proud of a lot of things the board has accomplished

Linda Nielsen-

- harvest on highline is over, just starting further north, few rains
- feeder sales will start soon – hope prices stay good

Meg Smith-

- the Glen area is low on stock water
- there is concern about contracting calves
- she is still calving

Stan Boone-

- his area in good shape, dried out some no heavy rain
- hay looks good, with Alzada looking the best ever

Bill Hedstrom-

- lot of rain this summer with over an inch yesterday

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- dairy industry in for a hard haul
- milk production and prices continue to slide
- feed prices going up, \$175 plus freight for dairy quality hay

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Stan Boone moved to approve the July 21 and 22, 2008 minutes as presented. Jan French seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS:

Jan French moved to approve of the executive officer report as presented. Linda Nielsen seconded. The motion carried with Meg Smith voting no.

APPROVAL OF CHAIRMAN INTERIM AUTHORIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES:

Christian Mackay reported one interim approval by Chairman Hedstrom for out of state travel. Christian and Dr. Zaluski traveled to Denver to attend a Tri-state Brucellosis meeting.

- George Hammond spoke prior to any motion being made. Stating he would not approve any actions or inactions of the chairman of the board, he cited his difference of opinion on how this board is functioning. And expressed his feeling that the board is being circumvented possibly by the chairman from doing the job of representing the producers. He continued "the board is dysfunctional, I refuse be a part of it and I want you to take this as my resignation."

Chairman Hedstrom accepted Mr. Hammond's resignation.

Linda Nielsen moved to approve the interim action authorizing out of state travel. Jan French seconded. The motion carried with Meg Smith voting no.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1:10 p.m.: The chairman called an executive session of the board for discussion of strategy on a legal issue.

1:45 p.m.: The regular board meeting was reconvened by Chairman Hedstrom.

Chairman Hedstrom explained that the issue discussed in the executive session concerned the 12 day code for pulling milk off the shelf.

Jan French moved to ratify the tentative agreement as recommended by legal counsel regarding the 12 day rule. Linda Nielsen seconded. In a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

USDA WILDLIFE SERVICES REPORT

John Steuber reported the latest activities of wildlife services:

- held their annual meeting a few weeks ago
- attended the Woolgrowers meeting
- assisted with the anthrax situation
- annual Avian Influenza surveillance is underway
- predator damage management in August and September
 - busiest time of the year except for lambing and calving seasons
 - tremendous increase in coyote activity – over 100 calf predation increase over last year
 - the increased wolf work cuts into the preventative work (coyote)
 - wolf damage up especially in sheep
 - over 80 adult sheep killed this year compared to 15 last year

PRODUCER ORGANIZATION UPDATES

MONTANA BEEF COUNCIL, Charlene Rich

- cattle sold out of Montana were 1,661,500 head, about even with last year
- nationwide cattle sales are down between five and seven million

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- the beef council paid \$81,859 to the department this year for collection of beef council monies
- the contract is up for renewal in October
- everyone invited to attend the annual meeting on September 30
- the 2008 annual report will go out the first of December
- a Foot and Mouth Disease preparedness for producers workshop will be on October 4

Linda Nielsen moved to approve renewal of the Beef Council contract with no changes. Jan French seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE, John Patterson, Extension Beef Specialist for Montana State University.

- recently received funding for livestock biosecurity education in Montana
- goals to promote community based biosecurity, education, and development of livestock biosecurity plans
- Clint Peck is director of the BQA and the biosecurity program
- presented documents with an overview of the project

MONTANA WOOLGROWERS, Aeris Reilly

- the 83rd annual ram sale was held on September 11
- all breeds sold well
- a total of 264 rams sold
- average price was \$588.41

Aeris thanked George Hammond for his year of service, a friend to the sheep industry as well as a personal friend.

BEARTOOTH STOCK ASSOCIATION, Billy Meyers

- working on biosecurity program for their area
- opportunity to start going forward with herd plans
- appreciates Board of Livestock support
- invited Dr. Zaluski to come down and help producers with their plans

MONTANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION, Nicole Griffin

- county annual meetings being held this month
- the annual state meeting is November 9-12 at the Crown Plaza

RECESS: 2:15 p.m.

RECONVENE 2:30 p.m.

ANIMAL HEALTH

Item 1a Update on Brucellosis Investigation

- did extensive testing of over 1000 head of cattle trying to find the source
- livestock, bison, and elk were all considered as possible sources
- conclusion of test show wild free ranging elk as the most likely source
- emphasizes a need to continue separation between livestock and wildlife
- thanks to all folks who help get the testing done

Item 1b Greater Yellowstone Area Wildlife/Livestock Task Force update

- board directed Dr Zaluski at last meeting to work on this
- FWP and Dr. Zaluski collaborated on the draft charter
- three documents drafted for someone interested in serving
- seven member group to look at all reasonable options to prevent transmission of brucellosis between livestock and wildlife
- recommendations by Dec 1 to have suggestions by Legislative session

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- membership criteria includes Dr Zaluski, rancher in GYA, rancher outside GYA, FWP person, wildlife enthusiast in GYA, wildlife enthusiast outside GYA, and a sportsman/rancher type person
- once applications are received the board will pick representatives from applicants

Dr. Zaluski requested input from the board regarding the template as presented and authority to go forward. The board will study the proposal and come back to it tomorrow

Item 1c Brucellosis Regionalization

- results of board direction to investigate all reasonable regionalization options
- held five conference calls with experts in their areas regarding four proposals
- attended a Tri-State meeting
- presented documents containing strengths and challenges of each option
- split state, PMA, tri-state, wildlife risk management zone

A brief summarization of the proposals:

Split State

Strengths:

- implementation - process is well established as far as implementation
- regionalization - avoids cumbersome testing and surveillance for majority of Montana cattle
- future cases - recognizes that additional cases may be found, and the low brucellosis risk for most producers in Montana

Challenges:

- perception – establishing a hard boundary can be seen as splitting the state
- classification – demark an area as class a but if you keep getting cases there it could be reclassified as class b
- acceptability – other state veterinarians and marketing partners may not recognize this status
- implementation – application for split state status is intensive, a significant paper chain needs to happen – takes a minimum of 6 (more like 8-10) months to complete it

PMA

Strengths:

- flexibility – based on where transmission took place
- support - supported by some producers that will be most impacted by this issue
- traceability - requires implementation of 840 tags and premises registration
- implementation - consistent with UM&R testing requirements

Challenges:

- implementation - significantly different from UM&R, requires USDA review and adoption of new regulatory framework
- funding - not secured
- wildlife plan - relies heavily on wildlife id, tracking, and surveillance, DOL does not have jurisdiction
- surveillance - this plan does not require additional surveillance in areas where brucellosis exists in wildlife

Tri-state Regionalization

Strengths:

- regionalization – treats it as a three state at risk area
- allows for up to six cases with in a regions in two years

Challenges:

- implementation – no current rules and procedures
- require APHIS review and new UM&R
- producer costs

Wildlife Risk Management Zone (WRMZ)

Strengths:

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- regionalization – takes true regional approach, not limited by jurisdictional and political boundaries
 - future – no limit on additional cases detected, as long as those occur within WRMZ as long as entire state's prevalence does not exceed limits described in UM&R
 - implementation - roadmap done, needs fine tuning
- Challenges:
- implementation – need USDA review & adoption of new rules and acceptance by other states
 - establish a boundary to prevent infected animals from moving further out of the region

Dr. Zaluski suggested there are two somewhat parallel efforts

- short term - revise UM&R (begin through the subcommittee Dr. Zaluski is chairing in October at USAHA)
- long term – first, running up the flag through a concept paper (lays groundwork for what this will be), second the details long, how do we want to regionalize?

Item 1d Brucellosis Action Plan – presented draft form, final form will be available on the livestock website

- should be Brucellosis Class Free Status application
- May 27 2009 can submit application for Class Free Status
- need significant surveillance data within that application to demonstrate we are looking for brucellosis and we do not have brucellosis
- identifies three areas: greater Montana, assurance area, and special focus area
 - want to increase surveillance in the assurance area as well as the special focus area to be sure where brucellosis free wildlife reside
 - maps show testing and hunting areas
 - there were four categories discussed in the phone conferences with area 1 GYA, area 2 assurance area, and area 3 greater Montana
 - testing
 - vaccination
 - fencing/pasture management
 - traceability/animal identification
- the plan makes specific recommendations for each of the three areas regarding the four items listed above as presented by Dr. Zaluski in a table
- the table had exposure to a limited number of producers (14-15 people or less)
- representation of producer organizations during meetings
- suggested a short comment period where producers could provide comments before continuing on with the plan

Meg Smith tendered her resignation to the Board of Livestock effective immediately. Reading a statement citing her feelings of being prevented from doing the job she was appointed to do and that the board is not fulfilling its legal role in a democratic way. She stated that she could "no longer serve in good conscience", and requested that her resignation letter, editorial, the September 14 letter to Mr. Mackay, and the letter addressed to the board and executive office in July be entered into the record.

Chairman Hedstrom accepted Meg's resignation and thanked her for serving.

OPEN MICROPHONE

MONTANA CATTLEMENS ASSOCIATION, Kim Baker

- participated in the planning process and the very long conference calls
- thanked Dr Zaluski for including producers in this issue
- very good points to many of the plans they came up with
- does not agree with RFID, not permanent
- why not use brands,

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- RFID could be seen as a stigma to producers

DRUSKA KENKIE, producer

- regarding RFID tags, many options to use, orange tags can be used
- state may need extra dollars and if RFID will provide these funds okay
- page 3 revised edition, short term plan, entire herd testing every 3 years thereafter
- Paradise Valley producers, lack of FWP participation, should say FWP "will"
- must have temporal and spatial separation or it will not work
- thank you to Meg and George they both deserve the respect and thanks from all of us

ALAN REDFIELD, Livingston producer

- FWP & the National Park Service do not want to work with "us"
- fenced his hay storage areas, FWP provided \$500 worth of fencing material
- 2000 elk were taking the hay before it was cut, eating about \$8,000 worth, now selling that much, he installed \$12,000 electric wildlife fencing, it stops them
- read the letter he sent to FWP regarding removal of deer & elk on his feed grounds

JIM HAGENBARTH

- thanked Dr Zaluski for being included in the group
- plan presented is very onerous to area one and two because the disease is onerous
- now it has to do with the wildlife, if we don't get help most of the ranches in the area will develop
- Department of Livestock will need the money and staff to complete the tests, does not have the money
- regionalization: APHIS, don't trust them, don't want them, might be a split united states status
- important to protect the health of the industry but must allow enough flexibility for the producer to continue

DIANE RICE, District 71

- sorry to see Meg and George go, know how much time and effort they have put in
- cautioned the board of the legalities involved in this issue
- questioned why boundaries have changed in the new proposed plans
- mentioned constituents views regarding RFID tags, Amish adamantly opposed
- needs to be an ample comment period to allow everyone to give their input

BRIAN MESSARD, Dillon

- why test the open and dry cows when they will be tested when sold
- what about elk on the winter range outside the plan area that may be diseased

QUENTIN KUJULA, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, replied to the elk question.

- the only incidence of brucellosis FWP has seen is in the Greater Yellowstone Area
- nothing else across the state as far as he knows
- the GYA is where brucellosis is in elk according to FWP testing results
- need enhance testing to find where the elk positive runs out

DR ZALUSKI replied that if we do find brucellosis in elk outside of plan area then we would have to look at the same plans as in the Greater Yellowstone Area

BILL GARRISON, Madison County

- how accurate will the surveillance be through the hunt testing
- who is going to pay for it (fencing etc)
- mandatory vaccination in replacement females - how are you going to manage it?

BILL MEYERS

- appreciate Marty doing the work, took a lot of time
- noticed more advertising for tubes & kits for hunting and hope it is successful
- Tri-State Plan, difficult to accept because we are absorbing Wyoming's feed grounds

JACK ROSS, State Representative HD 60

- big stake in the brucellosis program
- see three problems in the proposed plans

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- cost borne by the producer
- lacking mandatory participation by FWP and the National Park Service
- all of these plans are treating the symptoms rather than the problem
- need to find a more effective vaccine
- if fencing out wildlife should start on the Yellowstone boundary

LES GRAHAM replied to the question of hunter testing

- FWP is putting together a massive program to tell hunters and producers how to handle the test kits

JOHN CRUMLEY, Madison Valley Ranchland Group

- needs to be another line on the chart, for wildlife
- the Department of Livestock has no control over it but if you are a producer you have wildlife on your property you do have control
- FWP wants to do a management area to reduce the elk numbers significantly and redistribute to other areas.

JOHN SCULLY

- when you start to look at the plan little discussion to how going to implement it
- be realistic about what you are imposing, how and to whom

JAMES STUART, Sun Ranch Madison Valley

- a lot of what happens here will effect custom grazing operations
- no more bred cattle coming to Sun Ranch if some of what is implemented here
- be realistic about what you are implementing and the cost

STEVE ROTH, Montana Stockgrowers Association

- reconsider delay in cattle turn out
- avoid discrimination in the market place
- FWP should consider removal of elk from cattle grazing areas

Adjournment

Chairman Hedstrom adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Board of Livestock Present:

Stan Boone, representing cattle producers

Jan French, Vice Chair, representing pork producers

Bill Hedstrom, Chairman, representing dairy and egg producers

Linda Nielsen, representing cattle producers

Becky Weed, representing sheep producers

Staff:

Marty Clark, assistant administrator, Brands Enforcement Division

John Q Grainger, administrator, Brands Enforcement Division

George Harris, administrator, Centralized Services Division

Dr Bill Layton, administrator Diagnostic Laboratory

Christian Mackay, executive officer

Steve Merritt, public information officer

Monte Nick, chief, Milk Control Bureau

Carol Olmstead, chief, Meat Inspection Bureau

Dr. Jeanne Rankin, assistant state veterinarian, Animal Health Division

Sherry Rust, administrative assistant, recorder

Dan Turcotte, chief, Milk, and Egg Bureau

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Guests:

Lindsey Richimyer, Agri-News
Doug Robinette, Beartooth Stock Association
Anna Robinette, T-Bone Cattle Women
Cindy Donohoe, T-Bone CW/Beartooth Stock Association
Jess Donohoe, Beartooth Stock Association
Donna Sitz, Sitz Angus Ranch
Jack Ross, State Representative HD60
John Kauffman, Country Classic Dairies
Paul Ringling, Montana Cattlemens Association
Sharon McDonald, Montana Cattlemens Association
Kim Baker, Montana Cattlemens Association
Bill Myers, Reed Point
Jack Myers, Reed Point
Steve Roth, Montana Stockgrowers Association
Jeanne-Marie Souvigney, Livingston
Shannon Ruckman, The Prairie Star
Ariel Overstreet, Montana Stockgrowers Association
Mary Heller, Congressman Denny Rehberg's office
Carole Boone, Ingomar

Chairman Bill Hedstrom called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

GUEST SPEAKER

JOHN KAUFFMAN, Country Classic Dairies

Reviewed the history of minimum pricing issues between Country Classic and the Milk Control Board and provided documents to the board.

Points made included:

- questioned whether the Milk Control Board had jurisdiction over milk rules rather than the Board of Livestock
- discussed possible pending legislation and lack of notification of proposed changes in Statute 81-2-302 through 317 giving jurisdiction of milk issues from the Board of Livestock to the Milk Control Board
- asked why was Country Classic not informed of pending legislation, explained current litigation is regarding jurisdiction and minimum price for milk (to producers) and explained Country Classic's position

Clyde Peterson, Department of Justice attorney, representing the Department of Livestock, Board of Livestock replied to Mr. Kauffman:

- this matter is serious and Country Classic brought up good questions
- this is not an appropriate time to discuss issues because of the ongoing litigation
- the department will not issue opinion with litigation pending
- the department is not a party to this litigation, it is ongoing subject to discovery by the court
- the questions are valid and should be answered and will be answered at the appropriate time, when decisions are made by the court

DIVISION REPORTS

CENTRALIZED SERVICES, George Harris

Provided a booklet to the board regarding the following items

Item 2a Fiscal Year End 2008 budget status

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- major budget challenges included \$150,000 fuel cost increase, extensive lab supply increases
- employee retirement payouts were another unexpected challenge
- reviewed division budgets spent and remaining

Item 2b Fiscal Year End 2008 State Special Revenue Update/Fund Balance

- reviewed balances in the state special revenue

Item 2c 2010/11 Budget Biennial Budget Submission

- reviewed proposals, personnel services, rents, operational costs

Item 2d Per Capita Fee Setting

- reviewed per capita balance in past years and current headcounts
- reviewed projected per capita fee balance
- discussed possible fee increases as allowed by statute and how much money would be generated
- recommended that the board not raise the per capita fee at this time
- the board discussed decreasing the fee and whether the department would still have sufficient funds to pay the bills
- a 1% decrease in per capita fees will leave sufficient funds for the budget

Stan Boone moved that the per capita fee be lowered by 1%. Jan French seconded. Voice vote results: Stan Boone aye; Becky Weed, nay; Jan French, nay; Linda Nielsen, nay. The motion did not pass.

The board discussed the pros and cons of lowering the per capita fee.

Jan French moved that the per capita remain at the same level as last year. Linda Nielsen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 2e Milk Control, Monte Nick

- discussion of milk assessment 3 cent which funds the Milk Control Bureau
- need enough cash on hand to maintain the budget
- have never lowered or raised the assessment
- have suspended the fee for a period to expend overage
- last time suspended it in 2006 for three quarters.
- authority to raise or lower the fee lies in 81-23-202
- must be done before April 1st
- could lower it in January if board wants to

Board discussed lowering the fee to 2.5 per hundred weight for funding the Milk Control Bureau and raise the 15 cent fee to 15.5 cents for more revenue into the milk lab.

- revenue neutral to producers
- shifts some funds into milk lab while leaving the Milk Control Bureau with enough for their budget
- could look at it again next year if need to then increase the 2.5 cent fee if needed

Jan French moved reduce the Milk Control Bureau 3 cent fee to 2.5 cents and increase the 15 cent fee to 15.5 cents. for the milk lab. Stan Boone seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

RECESS: 10:30 a.m.

RECONVENE: 11:00 a.m.

BRANDS ENFORCEMENT, John Grainger

Brand fee proposal:

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- requested extension of the comment period to the November meeting because of lack of comment from producers.

Stan Boone moved to table the proposed brand fee increases until the November board meeting to allow more time for comments. Jan French seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Brand book fees:

- currently charge a flat fee of \$18 per county
- the last book printing cost \$30
- now checking on printing costs per county (book)
- may have to charge each county according to printing costs
- will soon have the ability to order online

DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY, Dr. Bill Layton

Item 3a General Updates

- reviewed monthly report

Item 3b Meetings with MSU

- referred to monthly report

Item 3c Safety review/BL-2 facility review

- demonstrated lab does meet criteria for BL2 (questioned by AAVLD)
- referred to monthly report
- outside review by Sheila Martin and Bonnie Rouse, Workers Comp revealed possible safety violations, written review is pending

Item 3d AAVLD Accreditation Committee meeting

- meeting with MSU regarding long term plans for the Marsh Laboratory building
- Becky Weed, Jeff Marshall, Christian Mackay and Dr. Layton to formulate a plan
- Dean of College of Ag, Jeff Jacobson, is looking at more space in Marsh Lab for PCR testing – long range plans for MSU does not show Marsh Lab

Chairman Hedstrom asked if the game plan ready for AAVLD meeting

Dr. Layton replied:

- they (AAVLD) want a comprehensive plan
- start with the little things, show our sincerity in compliance, what we are doing and what we can do
- where we are going to go long term
- need input from Board members for the presentation
- will provide a letter from all board members showing support for the lab and AAVLD
- suggested producer organization and veterinarian support

PUBLIC INFORMATION, Steve Merritt

- working on milk issues
- anthrax outbreak

MILK & EGG BUREAU, Dan Turcotte

- very busy with 12 day date issue
- working on milk processing draft of ARM changes
- will be ready for the board at the November meeting
- FDA is in the state this week

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- Western director for USDA next week working on the United Egg Producers contract for MT producers

MEAT INSPECTION BUREAU, Carol Olmstead

Updates

- finishing up the Federal fiscal year end
- then ask for funding for next year in October
- employee Skeeter Cain retired after 19 years and two weeks later died of heart attack
- there is an inspector opening in the Billings area
- receiving lots of new requests for an inspector for new plants in the Bozeman

Request for Out-of-State Travel

- FSIS IS funding the meeting and travel to San Diego
- October 16-20, 2008
- if authorized by the board Ray Figgins will attend

Jan French moved to approve out-of-state travel as requested. Becky Weed seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ANIMAL HEALTH, Dr. Marty Zaluski

Dr Rankin reported on the following items

Item 4 c Exemption Order for Canadian animals exhibited at the NILE

- requested board approval for this year's NILE only
- only on animals not eligible for sale
- exemption for hot iron brand and OVCd animals
- approximately six head expected for this year

Becky Weed move to approve Official Order 08-02-I as presented. Jan French seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 4d Requested approval of updated TB Import Order-

- standing order since 2001
- last change July 19, 2005
- changes to clarify it and provide consistency
- reviewed each proposed change in document

Becky Weed moved to approve Official Order 08-03-I as presented. Jan French seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 4a Miscellaneous Animal Health Issues

- Rabies
 - could use public funding as education and awareness is critical
 - provided updated map of reported cases
- Equine West Nile Virus
 - third leading state in reported cases
 - continue to be non-vaccinated
 - two of those reported were euthanized
- Trich
 - quiet now, expect a resurgence
 - 21 positive bulls reported
 - 190 veterinarians trained and certified to sample bulls and educated on what the new rule means
- Anthrax Investigation on Flying D ranch
 - presented power point
 - disease is spread from eating vegetation around the carcass or licking
 - timeline July 23 first death reported, August 19 last reported

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- ARM dictates 42 day quarantine
- October 5th quarantine release if no new deaths

Item 4b IBMP management plan

Dr Zaluski reported that a few things are being done differently after GAO report with agencies doing different roles. He reviewed five items and changes occurring

- 1) more clearly defined objectives
 - a. wild & free roaming herd
 - b. spatial & temporal separation
- 2) adaptive management needs to be more systematically applied
- 3) need for publicly available repository for IBMP documentation
 - a. established IBMP website
- 4) annual report to congress
 - a. park svc will do
- 5) primary agency
 - a. lead agency now the Park Service

Further details include

- A. the goal is to set the process systematically, setting goals and changes, then checking objectives to see if goals accomplished.
- B. define the criteria by which success or failure is measured
- C. use risk management to define criteria
- D. if bison are in zone 2 and there is no livestock must look at maintaining spatial separation, the number of bison out is immaterial
- E. working with partners for risk management approach
- F. 100 number to be tested is arbitrary, risk management approach is what do we not want to see
 - i.e. number of bison crossing the narrows or crossing the Madison
- G. expect the Park Service to discuss where the vaccine within the Park is at this time
- H. control points to prevent increase of risk
 - a. tolerance for bison on horse butte or south side of Madison
 - b. trigger point Madison ranch
 - c. do not want to have to haze more than 3 times
 - d. if bison occupy horse butte until may 15, say no crossing of the narrows
 - e. want to avoid arbitrary tolerances but rather base tolerances on risk
 - f. numbers must not reach maximum as to be uncontrollable
- I. Park Service believes it is the state's responsibility to vaccinate on the west side
 - a. can vaccinate in the trap in the spring following hunting season
- J. must keep in mind the female population on Horse Butte and additional bull tolerance

CHRISTIAN MACKAY requested direction from the board regarding yesterday's action plan, and feed back. Discussion included the following suggestions:

- put plan on website
- short comment period (to Oct 10)
- take a week to digest the comments
- board phone call following the comment period to get the plan going
- cost to producers and the department -one full time vet and administrative person
- need to provide a plan to USDA
- it is not an option to provide the plan in the spring of 09

Direction from board:

- proceed
- solicit the input
- follow up with board conference call

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OPEN MICROPHONE

BILL MEYERS

- Dr Zaluski get plan on the website, into markets, and to producer organizations
- plan tolerance of 100 tested on horse butte
- no control of what is going to happen
- department control trouble that comes in spring March & April

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

BILL HEDSTROM, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF LIVESTOCK